

Appl. No. 10/676,676
Amdt. dated April 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2004

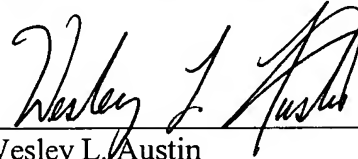
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed October 15, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 1-11. The Examiner objected to claim 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-11. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 13 be withdrawn. Claims 12 and 14-20 have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wesley L. Austin", is written over a horizontal line.

Wesley L. Austin
Reg. No. 42,273
Attorney for Applicant

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MADSON & METCALF
Gateway Tower West
15 West South Temple, Suite 900
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Telephone: 801/537-1700